

Appln No. 10/040,977

Amdt date February 10, 2005

Reply to Office action of November 10, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 24-27, 29, 31-35 and 39-43 remain pending in this application. Applicants have canceled claims 1-4, 7-23, 28, 30 and 36-38. No new matter is presented. Applicants therefore respectfully request a timely indication of allowance.

In the final Office action dated November 10, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 7-22, 28, 30 and 36-38 as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,855,592 to Mc Gee, et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,628,313 to Webster, Jr., and rejected claim 23 as allegedly unpatentable over McGee in view of Webster, Jr. and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,423,864 to Ljungstroem. However, Applicants have canceled each of these claims without prejudice in order to pursue them in a continuing application.

The Examiner allowed claims 24-27, 29, 31-35 and 39-43. Each of these claims remain in its allowed form. Applicants therefore respectfully request a timely indication of allowance. If there are any remaining questions that can be addressed by telephone, Applicant invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

CHRISTIE, PARKER & HALE, LLP

By


Anne Wang

Reg. No. 36,045

626/795-9900

LES/les

LDB PAS607770.1--02/10/05 8:29 AM